

Serial No.: 10/506,673
Atty. Docket No.: P70069US0

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before line 3, please insert the following headings:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph beginning on line 3, as follows:

--The present invention relates to a transcutaneous portal device ~~of the kind defined in the preamble of Claim 1~~ including a portal body that includes a recess delimited by a peripheral wall and a bottom wall that includes a through-passing opening which receives a catheter. A tubular element has an end-portion which is inserted into the end-portion of the catheter. The portal arrangement includes clamping means for clamping the end-portion of the tubular element against the bottom wall around the through-passing opening so as to tightly clamp the outer and the inner wall of the catheter around the edge of the opening and around the periphery of the end-portion of the tubular element respectively.--

On page 1, line 5, please insert the following heading:

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--2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

On page 1, please amend the last paragraph beginning on line 29, as follows:

--The bottom wall includes on the outside around the transit opening a nipple to which a hose is fitted. The inner diameter of the hose is slightly larger than the outer diameter of the catheter, so as to form a ~~gap seal/~~therebetween gap seal therebetween. The gap seal between portal and the patient's body must be sufficiently large to enable the ~~catheters~~ catheter to be readily drawn through the hose both with regard to insertion and withdrawal.--

On page 2, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 2, please delete the fifth and sixth paragraphs beginning on line 15 and 17, respectively, in their entirety and insert the following new paragraph in place thereof:

--The present invention achieves these objects by providing a transcutaneous portal arrangement having a portal body

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that includes a recess delimited by a peripheral wall and a bottom wall that includes a through-passing opening which receives a catheter. A tubular element has an end-portion which is inserted into the end-portion of the catheter, and the portal arrangement includes a clamping structure for clamping the end-portion of the tubular element against the bottom wall around the through-passing opening so as to tightly clamp the outer and the inner wall of the catheter around the edge of the opening and around the periphery of the end-portion of the tubular element, respectively. The clamping structure includes a screw which is rotatable relative to the tubular element. The screw has an external screw thread which co-acts with an internal screw thread on the peripheral wall of the recess. The tubular element, which has a coupling part that can be coupled to a tool for withdrawal of the tubular element from the portal body, is connected to the catheter for entraining the catheter as the tubular element is withdrawn from the portal body.--

On page 3, line 16, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

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On page 3, line 18, insert the following heading and paragraph following thereafter:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.--.

On page 4, please amend the first full paragraph, beginning on line 5, as follows:

--The illustrated sleeve 10 includes at its outer end a ring flange 16 whose edge lies in close proximity to the inner barrel wall surface of the body 1 so as to centralise the outer end-portion of the sleeve in the body 1. The end-portion 11 of the sleeve 10 is centred in the bottom opening 8 via the catheter hose ~~11~~ 9. The inner wall of the body includes at its outer end an internal thread 61. Received in the body 1 is a screw 5 that has an outer thread 62 which co-acts with the inner thread 61. The screw

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5 includes on its outer part a driver 28, which has the form of a recess in the illustrated case. The screw 5 can be rotated relative to the body 1 with the aid of a tool that has corresponding formations (pins). A washer or plate 38 whose outer diameter corresponds to the inner diameter of the body 1 is placed between the sleeve 10 and the ~~nut 5~~ screw. The cylindrical washer is conveniently comprised of an elastomeric material, or at least in its central region.--

On page 5, please amend the second paragraph, beginning on line 6, as follows:

--The catheter hose 9 may be replaced over a line guide in a known manner, wherein the tool is conveniently designed to provide free passage to the line guide. The person skilled in this art will be aware that the sleeve 10 can be clamped adjustably against the end-portion of the hose 9 with the aid of clamping means other than the screw 8 5 and the internal thread 61 of the body.--

On page 5, after the last line, please insert the following paragraph:

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--The invention being thus described, it will be apparent that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be recognized by one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.--.